

# Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stuke



*Scarlet Tanager*

## Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

Katy Kindig

**June Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT**

**Daily**

**[www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)**

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

## **Monday June 1**

**10:00am Dune Hiking!** Hit the high dunes with us this morning as we explore the highest point in the Indiana Dunes. We'll explore the sights and sounds on the way during this hour walk. Meet at the Nature Center. DG

## **Tuesday June 2**

**3pm Swamp Safari!** Join Katy for an afternoon exploration of the dune swamps. Meet at the Nature Center as we suit up with dip nets and bowls and hike to the wetland edge to explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Great family fun! KK

## **Wednesday June 3**

**3pm Dig Me A River!** Come explore the life of a creek along the Indiana Dunes. We'll create our own and watch how the winds and sand move it around. Meet at the Beach Pavilion. DG

## **Thursday June 4**

**3pm Turtle Time!** Scoot your carapaces into the Nature Center front deck for a fun and fascinating look at the turtles that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll explore how they survive this great park. Great program for the kids! KK

## **Friday June 5**

**10am Fossils, Rocks, & Minerals.** Come and discover the types of fossils that you may find in the Indiana Dunes. Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium for a 30 min. program.

**3pm Geocaching Jaunt.** Join us for a scavenger hunt with a techno-twist! Meet at the Nature Center and learn about the new hobby of geocaching, and try your hand at finding one for yourself. Prizes for the kids! Join us! DG



## **Saturday June 6**

*Today is National Trails Day.*

*Join us for a hike today!*

**9:30am Early Summer Birds!** Join us at the Campground Gate for a glimpse at the now breeding birds of Indiana Dunes. We'll search out nesting warblers, flycatchers, and more. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. We'll be out for an hour or a little more. BB

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. KK

**3pm A Dam Good Hike.** What's new with our local beavers!? Join us at the Nature Center for an hour stroll to check out the beaver lodge, and to look for some signs that they've been around! Join us for a great time! KK

**8:30pm Close Encounters with Goatsuckers!** Swoop into the Nature Center Auditorium for a short talk on the whippoorwills of Indiana Dunes. Afterwards we'll step outside to try to lure one in for a close up experience that you'll never forget! Bring a flashlight for the walk back to the campsite. Children under 12, please bring a parent. Great family fun! BB

## **Sunday June 7**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Saturday, June 6 for details. Join us! KK

**3pm Critter Feeding Time.** Flock to the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun time as we feed the Nature Center frogs, turtles, and snakes. Come watch them eat or maybe even help out! Great family program! KK

## **Monday June 8**

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Saturday, June 6 for details. Join us! KK

**3pm Reptile Review!** What's it like being a reptile in the dunes? Find out in this fun 45 minute discovery program on the Nature Center front deck. We'll discuss the turtles, snakes, and lizards of the park! Great program, even if you're uncomfortable around these types of animals. KK

## **Tuesday June 9**

**10am The Dunes in Bloom.** Meet outside the Nature Center for a morning stroll in search of the early summer flowers in the dune woodlands. We'll be out for about an hour. DG

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Saturday, June 6 for details. Join us! KK

## **Wednesday June 10**

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Saturday, June 6 for details. Join us! DG

**3pm A Box Turtle Lunch.** No, we're not eating box turtles today! But, you can help us feed our box turtle and some of our other Nature Center critters in the Nature Center auditorium this afternoon. Great family program! KK

## **Thursday June 11**

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Saturday, June 6 for details. Join us! KK

**3pm Greening Your Life.** Join us in the Nature Center for a look at what you can do to turn your life green. We'll look at what you can do in your own home to help save money and help the environment. Join us! DG

## **Friday June 12**

**9:30am Wetland Warblers.** Meet at the Nature Center for a morning look at the warblers that call the Dune wetlands home. We'll venture to the Wilson Shelter Boardwalk and be back within an hour. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. BB

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Saturday, June 6 for details. Join us! BB

**6:30pm Campground Crafts!** Send the kids over while setting up camp for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time! DG



## Saturday June 13

**10am Bird Banding Demonstrations!** Visit the Nature Center this morning for a fun look at the science of bird banding. We'll have many birds in the hand and up close for all to see. Check us out on the Nature Center front deck. Great family fun before hitting the beach! BB

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Saturday, June 6 for details. Join us! BB

**4pm Tour De Dunes!** Bring your bicycle and join us for an afternoon stroll along the park roads to the beach and back. Meet at the Wilson Shelter. We'll make stops along the way to point out the unique plants and animals of the dunes. DG

**8pm Sunset Stroll.** The sunset over Lake Michigan is the most beautiful in the state! Join us at the Campground Shelter (by site 116) for a moderate walk to the highest dune in Indiana (Mt. Tom!). We'll watch the sun set, then enjoy the forest twilight as we hike back. Kids under 12, please bring a parent. BB

## Sunday June 14:

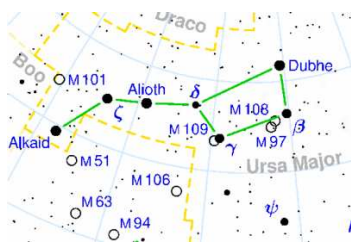
### *Happy Father's Day!*

**10am Feed the Birds with Dad.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Bring Dad and get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. KK

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Saturday, June 6 for details. Join us! DG

**2pm To the Beach House and Back.** As part of the Jens Jensen Remembered Symposium this weekend, join other historical buffs on an 1 ½ hour trek to the Beach House Blowout and back. We'll explore the early days of the Prairie Club and other historical events in the Indiana Dunes. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

**4pm Wetland Wander.** Explore the life in the dune swamps today. Gather at the Nature Center for a short hike into the Great Marsh, as we look for the plants and animals that call this place home. We'll be out for less than an hour. KK



## Monday June 15

**10am-3pm Youth as Agents of Change Workshop.** Join the Recycling and Waste Reduction or Porter County as they host a special workshop on proper disposal of unwanted medicine. Workshop takes place in the Nature Center and is free of charge (with lunch included!). Perfect for teachers of all ages! Register by calling 219-465-3694.

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Monday, June 16 for details. Join us! BB

**4pm. Animals Nobody Loves!** Join the Naturalist on the Nature Center front deck for a special look at some of the critters of the Indiana Dunes that most folks don't like! See why they are special to the habitats that they live. KK

## Tuesday June 16

**10am Dune Hiking!** Strap on your hiking shoes as we head for Mt. Tom, the highest point in the park. We'll enjoy a less rugged route and stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Total time about 1 hour. Meet at the Campground Shelter. BB

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Saturday, June 6 for details. Join us! KK

## Wednesday June 17

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Saturday, June 6 for details. Join us! KK

**6:00pm Healthy Homes Workshop.** Join the Recycling and Waste Reduction of Porter County as they host a special workshop on making your home a healthy home, and the dangers that lurk under your cabinet. The workshop lasts 90 minutes and costs \$10 per person. Register by calling 219-465-3694.

## Thursday June 18

**10am Sands of the World!** Join Dale for a fascinating look at how the dunes were formed. We'll explore the sands of the dunes, as well as other sands from around the world! Meet in the auditorium for this 30 minute, interactive program.

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Saturday, June 6 for details. Join us! DG

## **Friday June 19**

**10am Cactus Crawl!** Meet the Naturalist outside the Beach Pavilion for a morning jaunt into the cactus fields of Indiana Dunes. We'll explore this special dune habitat along the way. Total time about one hour. DG

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. DG

**10am Bird Banding Demonstrations!** Visit the Nature Center this afternoon for a fun look at the science of bird banding. We'll have many birds in the hand and up close for all to see. Check us out on the Nature Center front deck. Great family fun before hitting the beach! BB

## **Saturday June 20**

**10am Leave it to Beaver..** What's new with our local beavers!? Join us at the Nature Center for an hour stroll to check out the beaver lodge, and to look for some signs that they've been around! Join us for a great time! KK

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, June 19 for details. Join us! BB

**3pm Naturalist Beach Break!** Watch for the naturalist near the beach pavilion with some cool critters of the dunes. DG, KK

**8:30pm Singing Sands Star Show!** Join us for our annual event. Meet local astronomers from the Calumet Astronomical Society for a night of star gazing. Special telescopes will be set up as well as periodic constellation talks. Bring a blanket and join us on the main beach, near the pavilion. Activities going on through 11pm. Optimal star gazing after 9:30pm.

## **Sunday June 21**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, June 19 for details. Join us! DG

**3pm Snakes Alive!** Slither into the Nature Center for a look at the snakes that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll look at some of the myths surrounding snakes and more. Great program, even if you are uncomfortable around these reptiles. Meet in the Auditorium. KK

## **Monday June 22**

**10am The Incredible Journey!** Imagine being a droplet of water... where would you go!? Discover the life of a drop of water with the Naturalist at the Nature Center front deck this morning! Record your journey, and make a special bracelet that you can take home afterwards. Great program for the kids! DG

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, June 19 for details. Join us! KK

## **Tuesday June 23**

**10am Get Lost!** Get lost with the naturalist this morning, as we explore the uses of compass work and orienteering. Will we make it back before lunch?... we hope so! Meet at the Nature Center. DG

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, June 19 for details. Join us! DG

**3pm Naturalist in the Swamp!** Watch for the naturalist in the marsh this afternoon. Watch for Katy on the footbridge by the Wilson Shelter. What special critters will she have in her dip nets this afternoon? Walk on by to find out! KK

**7pm Image Makers Nature Photo Club.** Image Makers is an informal nature photo club that meets once a month at the Nature Center. Bring your favorite photo to share or just enjoy photos from other nature photo enthusiasts. Join us!

## **Wednesday June 24**

**10am Mt. Tom Bound!** Strap on your hiking shoes as we head for Mt. Tom, the highest point in the park. We'll take a less rugged route and stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Total time about 1 hour. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, June 19 for details. Join us! DG

**6:00pm Home Composting Workshop.** Join the Recycling and Waste Reduction of Porter County as they host a special workshop on home composting in your own backyard. The workshop lasts 90 minutes and costs \$10 per person. Register by calling 219-465-3694.

## **Thursday June 25**

**10am Dune Geology.** Join Dale for a fascinating look at how the dunes were formed. We'll explore the sands of the dunes, as well as other sands from around the world! Meet in the auditorium for this 30 minute, interactive program.

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, June 19 for details. Join us! BB

## **Friday June 26**

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, June 19 for details. Join us! KK

**3pm Scatology!** Do you know the tips on turds, facts on feces, or the data on dung!? Plop into the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the science of what animals leave behind. Prizes for those that know their scat! Great family fun! KK

**6:30pm Campground Crafts!** Send the kids over while setting up camp for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time! BB

## **Saturday June 27**

**10am Lion Hunt!!** We have lions in these hills... ant lions! Meet David outside the Nature Center as we head off on an ant lion safari, in search of these unique dune critters. Total time about one hour. DG

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, June 19 for details. Join us! KK

**3pm Naturalist Beach Break!** Watch for the naturalist near the beach pavilion with some cool critters of the dunes. DG

**8:30pm Owl Prowl!** Swoop down on the Nature Center for an evening in the woods. We'll enjoy the sights and sounds of twilight in the forest. Bring a flashlight for the walk back to the campsite. Kids under 12, please bring a parent. KK

## **Sunday June 28**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. KK

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, June 19 for details. Join us! KK

**3pm Naturalist Beach Break!** Watch for the naturalist near the beach pavilion with some cool critters of the dunes. DG

## **Monday June 29**

**10am Ancient Animals in Armor.** Scoot your carapaces to the Nature Center front deck for a fun and fascinating look at the turtles that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll explore how they survive this great park. Great program for the kids! KK

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, June 19 for details. Join us! BB

## **Tuesday June 30**

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, June 19 for details. Join us! BB

**3pm Owl Puke!** Come explore the world of owls this afternoon at the Nature Center. First we'll look at the owls of Indiana Dunes, then get your own chance to dissect your own owl pellet! Great fun for the kids. Join us! KK

Find These Programs and others at Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs On-line at  
[www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)

Make a campsite or shelter reservation at  
1-866-622-6746 or  
on-line at [www.CAMP.IN.gov](http://www.CAMP.IN.gov)

# **Indiana Dunes 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Sand Sculpture Contest**

**Coming July 12<sup>th</sup>**

Join us on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, as we bring back the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Sand Sculpture Contest. Whether it's your basic sand castle, or something more creative, try your hand at molding your best sand creation. Prizes will be awarded in several categories, including "viewer's choice"!

Even if you're not very creative, come by and vote for your favorite sculpture. Many great prizes will be available.

Activities are free, after paying the usual gate fees (\$5.00 in state, \$10.00 out of state). For more information, call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390.

